

## Scout Billy Rapp Hands Sammy Crane Big Boost

Nationals' New Shortstop Is Touted Highly by "Ivory Hunter," of Indians.

Seldom, if ever, has a young ball player come up from the minor leagues to the big tent that has been boosted as highly as Sammy Crane, the Harrisburg lad. Crane last season played the short field with Jack Dunn's Baltimore international league club and was easily the leading sensation of the International League.

Although a great ball player Crane is not exceptionally good with the stick and it was this weakness that came near making him spend another year in the bushes. Three clubs had put in bids for the youngster, while Connie Mack, of the Athletics, held an option on his services.

Connie cut his string loose on Crane during the middle of last playing season, and although the Nationals did not put in a bid for his services at the drafting time, Griff considers himself a lucky devil to have his services in 1917, as the three major league clubs that bid for him by the draft route withdrew their bids in favor of players who could still get the old bill a little better than the Nationals' young short fielder.

Griff is all praise for the work of this youngster and is confident that he will make good under the big tent. Every player scout or fan who watched this youngster in action holds him high in their esteem, but it remained for Billy Rapp, the former Washington catcher, who is at present scouting for the Cleveland club, to put in the big boost for Crane.

"I watched this youngster Crane in several games last season and, take it from me, he is going to be some ball player. I don't mean to say that he is going to get the big tent, but I am sure this season, but if Griff gives him a chance he will sure show enough to warrant being kept around."

"He is not a Cobb or Speaker with the stick but he seems to have everything that a hitter needs and will not be surprised to see him playing one of your regular infield positions before many days."

"After watching this boy for quite a few games I turned off Dunn and McArroy, of the Indians, to be sure and put in a bid for him on the draft list, as I figured that this was the easiest way of getting him, as I did not expect many of the big league clubs in the west to come out of the bushes with a willow."

"I was little surprised that the 'Indians' withdrew their bid on him in the draft and was not a bit surprised to hear that Griff had obtained his services. I am sure the 'Indians' could not have obtained him, but I am glad he has hooked up with the local club as I know that Griff will give him every chance in the world to make good for the Nationals."

Crane's baseball experience is not of long duration as this will be his fourth year in the national professional pastime, and he is still under 21 years of age. After being one of the leading semiprofessionals of Eastern Pennsylvania, Crane came to a club in the professional game and reported to Winston-Salem team of the North Carolina State League late in the month of July of 1914. Crane was shipped in September of the same year, but was not discarded until the spring of 1915 he joined Jack Dunn's Richmond International League club.

This was the year that Jack Dunn was run out of his own home town, Baltimore, by the Federal League. "Kasty" Crane's baseball experience is not of long duration as this will be his fourth year in the national professional pastime, and he is still under 21 years of age. After being one of the leading semiprofessionals of Eastern Pennsylvania, Crane came to a club in the professional game and reported to Winston-Salem team of the North Carolina State League late in the month of July of 1914. Crane was shipped in September of the same year, but was not discarded until the spring of 1915 he joined Jack Dunn's Richmond International League club.

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## WHITE DESIRES ONE MORE CRACK AT WELSH

Believes He Can Hang K. O. on Him in Finish Bout.

Havana may be the scene of the fifth encounter between Charlie White and Freddie Welsh. Those two birds have been four times in the ring, and the light-weight crown still rests firmly upon the Briton's head. White, however, believes that if the distance is extended to twenty-five rounds he may be able to see Welsh. This seems to be as much as the matchmaker, who cares for, although White is trying to get him to consent to making it a finish fight.

Welsh recently announced he would retire on July 7, the third anniversary of the date on which he was knocked out by Willie Ritchie. In the meanwhile he says he will enter one more distance fight. That is the bout White wants. So does Ritchie Mitchell.

"I'll fight Mitchell to see which one of us gets the crack at Welsh," said White. "I already have agreed to box twenty-five rounds in Havana. If Welsh is the other man I'll be glad. I've told my manager, Lane Lewis, that if he signs Welsh I'll go fifty-fifty with him on my end of the purse."

Welsh and Harry Pollok, who guides his destinies, have never boasted of the fact that Billy Roche, Welsh's choice for referee, slipped the champion the decision in that twenty-round fiasco at Colorado Springs and may be easier to tow into another match with White than is apparent just now.

## PORTLAND CLUB TO BE FIRST TO START

Portland, Ore., Feb. 3.—Charley Weighman with his Chicago Cubs, will not be the first baseball magnate to test the intentions of the players regarding the proposed strike. Six days before the players are to report for their spring training trip to California, the Portland Beavers are scheduled to start on their own trip to Honolulu. The Portland club thus will be the first in organized baseball to start training and thus the first to learn what there is in Dave Fultz's proposed strike.

## WRESTLING IS HELP FOR GRID PLAYERS

New York, Feb. 3.—Ted Jones, the miracle man of football, believes that boxing and wrestling will help his gridiron players condition themselves for the coming campaign in a large way.

Jones has advised his players, eighty in all, to take up both sports during the winter months. He says that in order to be at his best the football player must keep himself in condition first of all, and in doing so he must map out the eye, the brain, the arms and the legs. He must bring all his muscles into play in various ways to be fit for delivering his best on the football field.

## 1917 SALARIES FOR THE 1917 PLAYER

New York, Feb. 3.—When Bill Lane, who was somewhat of a ball player back in the old days, was playing with the Chicago Colts, he drew down a salary of \$1,500. That was back in 1883. And today he is a great player in this age of baseball, draws \$3,000.

When Cap Anson was the manager of the old Chicago club he received \$2,700, and Hutchison, the great hurler, got \$2,500 for his work. Today there are a number of players who would snicker at such salaries.

## War Crisis Stops the Navy Basket-ball Tossers

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 3.—Because of the stringent order barring all persons from admittance to the government reservation account of the war crisis the basket-ball game between teams of the Naval Academy and West Virginia University scheduled for this afternoon was called off.

## FULTZ BACKS DOWN IN STRIKE SQUABBLE

Denies Labor Federation Had Suggested White Rat Affiliation.

New York, N. Y., Feb. 3.—President David Fultz, of the Players' Fraternity, flatly denies the charge that he is a "white rat" for signing a contract with the Boston Red Sox, is not significant and does not mean Hobbitt will desert the strike. "A player is not disloyal to the fraternity because he accepts terms," says Fultz. "There is a difference between accepting terms and signing a contract. The player who signs a contract has nothing to do with accepting terms, but only binds the player not to sign. That is how the case of Demaree became confused. He merely accepted terms, but he has not signed." This attitude of Fultz probably means that a number of players have had the wrong impression. They thought they could not even accept terms. Now that Fultz says they may do that it is likely that the most rabid of the "strickers" will negotiate with their clubs. In the meantime, according to Fultz, players who break their pledge by actually signing contracts will be expelled from the fraternity and he announced, as proof of this, that Pitcher Mike Fendergast has been expelled. Since all but four members of the New York Giants have signed contracts, it is presumed a bunch of expulsions of New York players is on the way.

Fultz denied the story that the fraternity had been asked by the Federation of Labor to affiliate with the White Rats, which is a vaudeville actors' union. Fultz says the fraternity will go into the Federation as a distinct organization and will lose its identity. He says now that the federation will accept the Frat in April, when the executive council of the labor union organization holds another session.

## PLACES FAITH IN SHOCKER AS PITCHER

"Wild Bill" Donovan Counts on Young Hurler to Lead League.

Wild Bill Donovan has a hurler he thinks a great deal of, and William predicts that 1917 will see this youngster reach the pinnacle in the American League. The tosser, who is known as Urban Shocker, who spent most of the season of 1916 as a member of the Toronto club of the International League. At Toronto Shocker pitched wonderful ball, winning many pitchers' battles through masterful hurling. But late in the season when he was called in by the Yankees he grew wild and lost a number of close games on account of his inability to locate the platter.

So Donovan plans to watch Shocker closely in the training games this spring and try everything he knows to help the lad regain control. Bill says: "Shocker is a natural twirler. He has more stuff on the ball than many of the famous pitchers of days gone by and his spitball is a marvel. Of course, he has to learn, but I think he will acquire the things he must pick away in his cranium during the spring training season. I have spent many years studying pitchers and I feel qualified to say that I believe Shocker's chances of becoming one of the ranking pitchers in the big leagues are brilliant."

"And while on the subject of pitchers," added Bill, "I want to mention Lefty Morgan and Nick Cullip, who will be out there showing 'em a few things about the art of winning ball games unless I miss my guess by about seven miles. Cullip, you'll remember, was the leading hurler of the league in 1916, but injuries kept him off the slab when we needed him most."

## SECRETARY OF A. A. U. NAMES TITLE DATES

Frederick W. Rubien, chairman of the A. A. U. championship committee, has named the dates for A. A. U. championship fixtures for the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 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